

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the Mailchimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

TWO CONTESTS NEXT WEEKEND

MOU BETWEEN THE SARL AND THE RADIO SOCIETY OF KENYA

and

THE 23 CM BAND IN THE SPOTLIGHT WITH REGULATORS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

The News Team welcomes Christo de Witt, ZS3CDW and Hannes Enslin, ZS6JDE. They will be joining the Afrikaans bulletin readers.

TWO CONTESTS NEXT WEEKEND

Rule 1.5 of the General Contest Rules states that Clubs hosting contests must advertise the contest via SARL News. Unfortunately, nothing was received from the Clubs.

Monday 8 March is International Women's Day and to celebrate the day, the SARL YL Sprint will be on the air from 12:00 to 13:00 UTC (14:00 to 15:00 CAT) on Saturday 6 March 2021. It is a CW and phone sprint on the 40-metre band with the exchange of a RS(T) report and YL or OM. Please note that the QSY rules for Sprints apply. Submit your log by 23:59 CAT on Thursday 11 March 2021 by e-mail to zs3vdk@webmail.co.za. The rules are on page 70 of the 2021 Blue Book.

The popular SARL HAMNET 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest runs from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC (14:00 to 16:00 CAT) on Sunday 7 March 2021 and is open to radio amateurs from Southern African countries. There are four classes of participation and the exchange depends on the Class you are participating in. Make this a Club field station with a bring-and-braai! Submit your log by 23:59 CAT on Friday 12 March 2021 by e-mail to contest@peham.co.za. Get all the information on page 93 of the 2021 Blue Book.

THE MARCH 2021 RADIO ZS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

How can your Club win R200? Turn to page 34 and read about the Club challenge. Further we look at World Radio Day, the ITU Radio Regulations and the IARU Positions on WRC-23 Agenda Items. The SARL Awards and Trophies for 2020 are on page 29 and Eddie, ZS6BNE asks if you are a radio whisperer? Louw, ZS6LME gives us feedback on problems with electric fences and also the sale of illegal radio equipment.

Printing your own antenna parts features in this issue with Matthew, ZS6MDV showing his not so ugly air choke for the MFJ G5RV, while Al Williams tells about printing a quadrafilair antenna and an end-fed antenna winder. We look at the versatile end-fed and the long wire antennas, also two DIY battery boxes and in the Museum Piece we look at radios from World War 2. And there is more in this 104 page issue.

MOU BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE AND THE RADIO SOCIETY OF KENYA

The Radio Society of Kenya (RSK) approached the South African Radio League (SARL) around six months ago and following successful discussions a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed during February 2021 with full approval from the Regulator – the Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK).

The SARL will assist RSK with the Radio Amateur Examination and administer the technical aspect of the examination on their behalf. The RSK will administer regulations and operating procedure themselves. The SARL will assist with the necessary Train-the-Trainer courses; provide the training manuals and presentation material as well as online sessions to assist in conducting successful training courses in Kenya.

David Mutonga, 5Z4DJ Chairman of RSK and Secretary Gitonga M'Mbijjewe, 5Z4ZT joined Noel Hammond, ZR6DX the SARL RAE Manager, Gerhard Gericke, ZS6CRS Deputy RAE Manager and SARL President Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL in an online meeting on Tuesday 23 February (this week) to conclude the discussion process and start the process of co-operation. The SARL is looking forward to working with the RSK to grow Amateur Radio in Kenya.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE 23 CM BAND IN THE SPOTLIGHT WITH REGULATORS

The Chair of IARU Region 1 Spectrum Affairs, Barry Lewis, G4SJH reports on the meeting of the ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP4C) held between 15 and 19 February which discussed the amateur radio allocation at 1 240 – 1 300 MHz.

During the week 15 to 19 February, the preparatory work for WRC-23 agenda item 9.1b continued in ITU-R Working Party 4C (WP4C). The WRC agenda item has initiated technical studies on coexistence between the radio navigation satellite service (RNSS) and the amateur services in the 23 cm band. As usual,

the IARU participated in the meeting and delivered key information on amateur activities in this important microwave band. This information is vital to ensure the amateur services are realistically represented in the studies as they move forward.

It remains vital that National Amateur communities present their views on the importance of this band to their National Regulators in a consolidated and consistent manner. To assist with this the IARU Region 1 is developing supporting material that Member Societies can refer to when addressing the topic with their National Regulator. The work on this topic will continue throughout the year and beyond, both in ITU-R and in the regional telecommunications organisations, and the IARU is committed to ensure every organisation understands the amateur position on this important microwave band.

QSO TODAY VIRTUAL HAM EXPO ON 13 AND 14 MARCH

The fast-approaching QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo to be held on 13 and 14 March will be even better with over 80 speakers, live kit building workshops, panel discussions, and much more. Early Bird discount tickets are still available and include entry for the Live 2 day period plus the 30-day on-demand period. Registration can be found at www.qsotodayhamexpo.com.

The ARRL will have a significant Expo presence with ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA delivering the Keynote address on Saturday 13 March. In his Keynote speech, David will share his enthusiasm for advancing amateur radio and highlight current ARRL initiatives to engage and inspire this current generation of amateurs. See more at www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/speakers.html. You will note that Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE is one of the speakers. You can participate from the convenience of your home without spending a Rand on travel! So, if you have never been to an in-person Hamfest, you can participate in the Expo and get the same benefits. The platform simulates a full convention experience.

A BUSY WEEKEND ON 13 AND 14 MARCH

During this weekend you can attend the QSO Today Virtual Expo and participate in the 84th RSGB Commonwealth contest – CW only. Then you and your Club can combine the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest and the SARL National Field Day and have fun out of doors! There will be more information next Sunday.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There is one sunspot region visible and minor C-class solar flaring is possible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around eight. The 15 to 30 m bands may provide some good DX fun, especially during the afternoons. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

6 March – the SARL YL Sprint

6 to 7 March – the ARRL DX SSB Contest

7 March – the SARL Hamnet 40 m simulated emergency contest

8 March - International Women's Day and the West Rand meeting

13 and 14 March – the SARL National Field Day; the SARL VHF/UHF Analogue contest, the RSGB Commonwealth contest and the QSO Today Virtual Expo

16 March– the PEARS and Border ARC meetings

17 March - St Patrick's Day and the SARL 80 m Club Sprint

20 March- Autumn Equinox at 11:37 CAT and the Magalies and Highway ARC meetings

21 March – Human Rights Day in South Africa and Independence Day in Namibia

22 March - Public Holiday in Namibia and South Africa and World Water Day

23 March - World Meteorological Day

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The SARL YL Sprint is on the air on Saturday 6 March and the SARL HAMNET 40 m Simulated Emergency contest is on the air on Sunday 7 March. Get the rules in the 2021 Blue Book and have fun.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.